



Enabling Policies and Strategic Frameworks for Green Transitions Virtual Training Workshop Report

IBC Training Programme on Green Transitions

Webinar #5 on Enabling Policies and Strategic Frameworks, 29 November 2022 (12-2pm CET)

*The United Nations Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and
Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia*

Contents

Introduction	2
Webinar opening	3
Part I Expert Presentations and Discussion	3
Part II Keynote Interview: Facilitating the green transition – a country representative perspective	4
Part III: Roundtable Session - Sharing experiences, imagining the future	8
Panel Insights	10
First Round of Questions & answers	10
Second round of Questions & Answers	14
Respondent: Mr. Ravshan Yunusof, UNDP Uzbekistan	15
Closing Remarks	18
Annex 1: Participant List	21
Annex 2: Webinar Agenda and Evaluation Results	24



Introduction

A virtual training webinar for UN Resident Coordinator Offices and Country Teams on the topic of Enabling Policies and Strategic Frameworks for Green Transitions was convened on 29 November 2022 by the United Nations Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia.

Training objective for this webinar: The overall objective of the webinar on Enabling Policies and Strategic Frameworks is to help UNCTs to formulate a strategic approach for supporting the Green Transition at country level. To that end, the first part of the webinar introduced the elements of a strategic approach for supporting the green transition and presented critically how the green transition is taking place in countries in Europe and Central Asia. For the second part, the webinar provided opportunities for sharing experiences among UNCTs regarding support to governments on the green transition; exploring what could be a more strategic role in promoting and supporting the green transition; and identifying capacity development needs in UNCTs to fulfill that role.

Background on Green Transitions: The green transition is key to safeguard our planet's future allowing us to turn the fossil-fuel dependent economy to a green economy, in a new sustainable paradigm that drives sustainable development and peace. It is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and directly contributes to the achievement of most of the SDG targets. The Ukraine crisis has seriously affected the Europe and Central Asia region including an exacerbating energy crisis, increased pollutants, biodiversity loss and climate change. During this time, it is important to support member states of the region to turn environmental and climate challenges into opportunities and to make the Green Transition just and inclusive for all. The success of this transition depends on strong regional coordination, involving local authorities, state-owned enterprises, the private sector, civil society, research and education institutions, youth, the financial sector, and the development community.

Training Context: In response to the request by Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and the Development Coordination Office, the Issue Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia (IBC) offers the Green Transition Training Programme dedicated to RCOs and UN Country Teams in Europe and Central Asia. The Green Transition Training Programme further builds countries' capacities to design strategies and action plans for green transition. The content is based on the expertise and resources among the IBC members. The work is led by UNDP, UNECE, UNEP and UNESCO and facilitated by IISD, with contributions from the other IBC organizations and external experts.

The IBC Green Transitions Training Programme offers five webinars led by different agencies depending on capacity from September to November, with most having both a thematic and a sub-regional focus. The main themes, identified through various consultations with the RCOs and UNCTs, are: (1) Sustainable Finance; (2) Energy; (3) Circular Economy; (4) Plastics; and (5) Enabling policies and strategic frameworks for Green Transition at the country level.



Webinar opening

IBC representative **Jonathan Baker (Head, Science Unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau)** opened the webinar, highlighting the importance of UNCTs sharing experiences and learning from each other and reminding participants that a guidance document will be produced for this webinar on enabling policies and strategic frameworks for green transitions. Mr. Baker also pointed out that this was the last and conclusive webinar in the IBC’s Green Transitions Training Programme and thanked participants for their interest. More than 60 participants from 16 different program countries in the region, including multiple RCS and heads of RCOs and co-chairs of Results Groups, attended the webinar.

The webinar was organized in three parts, namely:

- Part I: Presentations on enabling policies and strategic frameworks
- Part II” Keynote interview with the Resident Coordinator from Serbia
- Part III: Round table session with Results Group Co-chairs from across the region.

Part I Expert Presentations and Discussion

Two expert presentations were delivered on enabling policies and strategic Frameworks:

<p><u>Presentation – Part 1:</u> Making the green transition happen – towards a strategic approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Roberto Martin Hurtado, UNECE Consultant</i> 	<p><u>Presentation – Part 2:</u> The green transition in practice – a regional overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</i>
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A summary of the expert presentations is provided under separate cover in the form of an IBC Guidance Note on Strategic Frameworks for Green Transitions. Guidance notes are posted to the IBC website approximately two weeks after the respective training webinar at:

<https://uneurocentralasia.org/en/ibc-environmental-coalition>

Question by facilitator Darren Swanson for Roberto Hurtado (UNECE): There seem to be entry points/levels for UNCTs to promote the green transition with governments (high level to get conversations started with governments, and then down to a layer of detailed policies – e.g., taxation policies). Can you comment on those two levels?

Answer:

- Yes, it’s important for UNCTs to work at different levels. If they try to work at the top level (sensitize the country leaders) but don't provide the support to make it happen, then the UNCTs are only halfway there. However, if they are trying to push the technical level exclusively, they may not be able to internally move the agenda forward.



- The U.N country teams are well positioned to provide support at different levels and in different sectors. It's important that they work with partners to identify the best way to do this, and where they can provide the most value.

Question by Darren Swanson to Krzysztof Michalak (OECD): You talked about green finance and some enablers, i.e., Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs) and green economy coordinating bodies. Can you elaborate on progress and what the benefits are?

Answer:

Regarding public expenditure reviews:

- There's a long story about using public money for environmental investments in this region, related to the existence of environmental funds: Under the Soviet Union there was some support for investments. Over time, those have been accommodated into the state budgets.
- Now we're seeing a resurgence of interest in setting up dedicated **environment funds**. Many countries feel there isn't enough money being set aside for environmental improvements (from the national, state or local budgets) even though taxes are being collected. Thus, an element to take into consideration is: how to set up the funds where necessary, and under certain, very strict conditions with sunset clauses, and transparent management and disbursement (or project appraisal) in the prospect procedures.
- Another element to look at is screening: **what public money can or is being put into environmental investment**, and **what public money is being spent against environmental objectives/green targets through fossil fuel subsidies?**

Regarding institutions:

- Paradoxically, ministers of economy in some countries are a stronger force than ministers of environment – the latter has been shy about engaging in broader discourse and the public for green policies. We've been working with SME development agencies who agree that their support has to be more green to produce those win-win benefits.

Part II Keynote Interview: Facilitating the green transition – a country representative perspective

Ms Françoise Jacob, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia

In Part II of the webinar and from the perspective of Serbia, Ms. Françoise Jacob provided the perspective of the UNCT and Resident Coordinator toward facilitating the green transition.

Facilitator, Darren Swanson (IISD): Being both ambitious and realistic, how do you see the role of the UNCT in supporting the green transition? What opportunities for UN support have you perceived in Serbia?



Ms. Jacob: First, the concepts of green transition and even more of *'Just Transition'* are not well known and understood across the board of our government counterparts, development partners, and certainly much of the general public. Particularly now, there is a simplified belief that the green transition is primarily, if not only, the equivalent to the energy transition. This means that many institutions and ministries do not really see their own responsibility and need for action. In particular, there is no full realisation of the links between energy transition, pollution, biodiversity loss, agriculture, urban development, transport, trade, etc.

Second, especially now in the context of multiple crises, the tendency of many local and national leaders is to think very short term (i.e., how do we go through the winter), and disregard or pause the efforts needed for long term transformation. The role of the UNCT is absolutely key to promote long term transformation.

The green transition is one of three strategic priorities in Serbia. There are 10 points that we think we can act upon as a UNCT:

1. **Raise awareness**, again and again, to the wider institutions and society.
2. **Move the narrative from one of threats to one of opportunities:** Support the country to provide data upon which to base policies: we also need a strong statistical and analytical background to show that these global challenges impact everyday lives of people (e.g., years of life lost to air pollution, competitiveness costs of energy inefficiency, health concerns due to unhealthy diets, job losses vs gains, etc). We need to document and give visibility to good stories and impact initiatives.
3. **Bring solutions and innovative approaches:** Start with low hanging fruit (e.g., energy efficiency for public buildings results in lower energy consumption; less pollution; more jobs). We also need to help government understand why more recent solutions are not always effective.
4. **Ensure a true LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND approach:** Involve and find solutions for marginalised groups, poorest communities, minorities, youth, and apply a gender lens to analysis and solutions; (E.g. financial subsidies for energy efficient homes don't work for people who don't have a bank account).
5. **Encourage and facilitate a cross sectoral approach and coordination:** Engage with ministries not traditionally engaged - such as education, health, trade. And most importantly, engage with the finance ministry, construction and transport.
6. **Build capacities, rather than substitute:** Most ministries have very little true knowledge on the green transition. **Build new skills through formal/non formal education.**
7. **Localise the global initiatives that contribute to the green transition, such as Sustainable Food systems,** the outputs from the CoP, the UN New Urban Agenda, the Voluntary National



Reviews, Local National Reviews, etc. Work a lot more with mayors - beyond traditional area-based approaches.

8. **Engage with the private sector:** The level of awareness and knowledge is minimal beyond larger companies. Work with the Chamber of Commerce, the local Global Compact chapter, employers' associations. Equally important is to engage with social partners (i.e., trade unions).
9. **Advocate towards all development partners on the above points,** so that their own strategies and financing follow a consistent pathway.
10. **(Awareness again) Communicate through multiple media to the general public:** Use TV or any preferred local communication media - including tabloids, etc., to raise awareness on issues of consumption, lifestyle, individual responsibility, etc. Promote fact-based narratives, debates, and pedagogical tools for a wide audience.

Co-facilitator: How do you see the role of a UN Resident Coordinator in promoting the green transition? What challenges are you facing in your dialogue with the government to promote the green transition?

Ms. Jacob: There are two roles of the RC: Internal and external.

Internal:

- **Raise awareness and *bring the different parts of the UN system together*:** The RC has to identify who has knowledge, where, and at which level it is in the system, and then nudge the country level team members to make best use of this knowledge. This is exactly what we have done in the Just transition, bringing together expertise and operational capacities with UNDP, ILO, UN Women, UNEP, FAO.
- **The RC has to encourage *coherence and convergence* on programme development and policy support, so that the support we provide to the government is actually consistent, comprehensive and effective.** The tools can be joint programmes, a joint vision, regular dialogues within the UNCT and the Results Group). It takes a lot of sustained effort from the RC and RCO team to stay abreast of knowledge developed on green transition, just transition, and to keep a bird eye view on these topics.
- The RC, along with RG co-chairs must ensure a certain flexibility in the Cooperation Framework and Joint Work Plan, to include new global and local initiatives.

External:

- The biggest challenge is to promote the national vision – both the political vision and the will to implement it. My mantra has been to put green transformation at the HEART of the government development strategy;



- **The RC has to identify champions in the government**, in local authorities and in development partners, who can have a true leverage in moving the whole of government approach (e.g. Prime Minister).
 - **Promote effective cross sectoral coordination between ministries and at the local level.** This a long-term endeavor.
 - **Advocate to partners, including** to the EU Green Deal. It is particularly important to advocate to donors and IFIs on the issue of JUST TRANSITION - not just on paper. (There are examples of “green” projects that are not green at all).
 - **Support dialog between civil society and government**, and support civil society to have more strategic common approaches.
- **The UN RC embodies the vision** – including with everyday lifestyle changes – e.g. sustainable/soft mobility to go to office.
 - It’s important to **balance the narrative** so that it instills a sense of urgency but not of hopelessness, especially with young people.

But there are challenges, including:

- The political vision of green transformation needs to be comprehensive/holistic, nationally driven – rather than driven by foreign investments
- Zero-sum game mentality: green transformation is seen as a cost, not opportunity
- Short-termism: shifting from a programmatic to a strategic vision
- Short-term cabinet + competition between ministries / lack of understanding, lack of awareness, and lack of capacities
- Little enforcement of good regulations.

Facilitator. What support will you and the UNCT need from regional platforms to fulfill that role?

Ms. Jacob: Supports required include,

- Availability of expert advice from regional/headquarters level to inform local action
- Support national participation in global processes (e.g., COP 27, COP 15, VNRs, LNRs) that can help anchor the local actions in a broader vision
- Greater coherence at global and regional level between agencies, to influence the greater coherence at country level
- Visits by top level UN officials – including virtual visits, dialogues with local youth
- Support for the communication and outreach strategy

The Green transformation is about change. We have to address the multiple aspects of resistance to change.



Facilitator: In closing the keynote interview session, facilitator Darren Swanson highlighted the importance of the RC's role in laying out the connection between the visibility of the green transition strategy - building shared visions and integrating those visions into the national discussion.

Regarding Ms. Jacob's comment on the challenge of an RCO office to stay aware of all the different approaches and keep a bird's eye view on the different aspects of a green transition - Mr. Swanson highlighted that it is precisely for this reason that RCs across the region requested the IBC to create this webinar series – to provide an overview of green transitions including on finance, energy, plastics, circular economy, and overall enabling policies and strategic frameworks.

Part III: Roundtable Session - Sharing experiences, imagining the future

The third part of the training webinar featured a plenary panel moderated by Mr. Roberto Martin Hurtado, UNECE consultant. It was organized as a round table session featuring four panellists from RCOs and UNCT Results Groups in the region.

Panellists:

- **Kyrgyzstan: Ms. Louise Chamberlain** (UNDP Kyrgyzstan, Result Group Co-chair)
- **Georgia: Ms. Natalia Davlianidze** (FAO Georgia Results Group Co-chair) **and Ms. Nestan Khuntsaria** (RCO Georgia)
- **Tajikistan: Mr. Owais Parray** (Economist, RCO Tajikistan)

Respondent:

- **Mr, Ravshan Yunusov** (UNDP Uzbekistan)

To begin the roundtable session, Moderator Roberto Hurtado asked the panellists to respond to focus questions run in two rounds as follows:

Round 1. How has “your results group” supported the green transition in “your country”? What challenges have you encountered? What lessons have you learned? Are we being strategic enough at the UNCT level? Can we be more strategic? If so, how?

Round 2. Focus on 2023-2030: What can be a more strategic role of the UNCT in supporting the green transition in “your country”? Which “entry points” could the UNCT target? How does the capacity of the UNCT need to evolve to be able to fulfil that role?



Summary of panel insights:

Country	Kyrgyzstan	Georgia	Tajikistan
<p>Work the UNCT carries out to promote and support the green transition:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach on adopting enhanced NDCs. ● Establishing an MRV system of gas greenhouse gas emissions ● Partnering with IRENA to conduct a Renewable Energy Readiness Assessment ● Preparing a long-term strategy (LTS) has recently begun ● Analyzing tax exemptions and SDGs ● Stimulating demand for green energy - mobilizing youth to 'speak up' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental governance and institutional capacity building ● Ensuring climate sensitive risk-resilient development ● Streamlining Innovative and climate-friendly technologies into the economy ● Technical support: with UN CoPs (multilateral formats) ● Awareness raising with different public groups such as youth, women, most marginalized groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting the country's NDCs (revising them; raising the ambition level, the adaptation plans), ● Supporting budgeting and climate change.
<p>Challenges encountered:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fossil fuel entrenchment in existing systems ● Low awareness of climate issues and environmental hazards ● Green transition requires a system-wide impact and system-wide engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food security ● The war in Ukraine compounding existing crisis ● Shrinking government fiscal space due to the COVID-19 pandemic reduces funding from climate investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Achieving policy coherence is a challenge for policy makers due to multiple policies and strategies. ● Learning from past mistakes to find a more sustainable development path
<p>Lessons learned and how to be more strategic:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with both supply and demand of green energy ● Engage broadly and harness the combination of different UN agencies' mandates ● Expertise across multiple sectors -our entry points are across multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral processes (e.g., SDGs, national action plans, national adaptation plans, etc.) ● Help the government to have a more robust investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build upon existing frameworks ● Engage in Joint coordination & planning, take into account others' technical capacities & experiences, and keep other agencies informed to avoid duplication and overlapping efforts ● Build capacity at multiple levels ● Unite to promote private sector engagement and encourage partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do more work upstream at political and technical levels ● Make the economic case of the benefits of protecting natural resources and the green transition ● Implement an Integrated National financing framework (INFF) and that's where we can make a big difference to really move the needle.



	<p>framework and pipeline of investable projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technical coordination with other entities, e.g., partnering with IFIs ● Robust data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate information sharing with external partners and promote successful activities ● UNCT crisis response needs to ensure planning for mainstreaming sustainable climate resilient approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand how financing leverages strategies and policies
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Panel Insights

First Round of Questions & answers

Focus on 2016-2022 (the period from the MDGs to the SDGs until today):

- How has your Results Group supported the green transition in your country?
- What challenges have you encountered?
- What lessons have you learned?

Kyrgyzstan

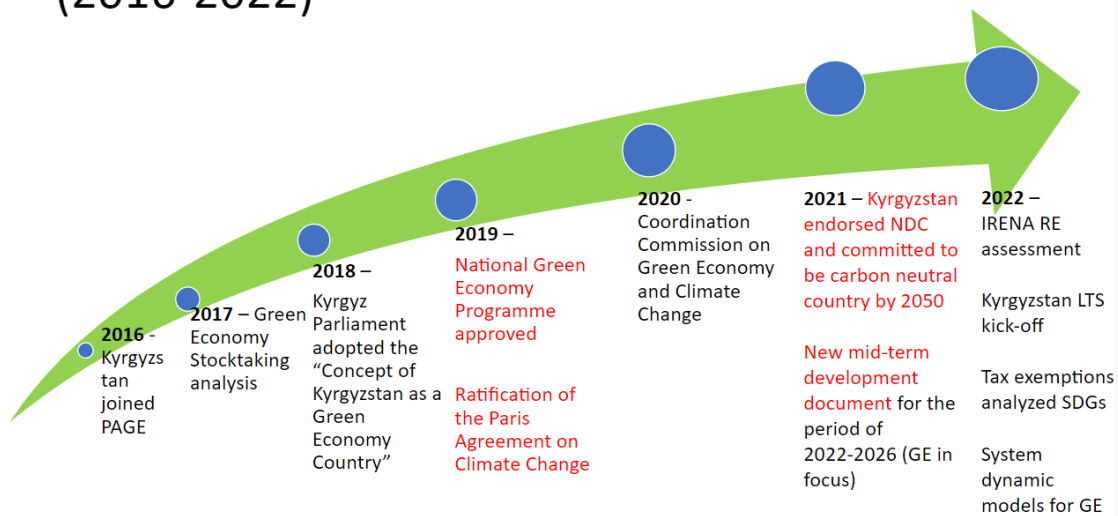
Ms. Louise Chamberlain, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

- Kyrgyzstan joined the climate scene relatively late. UN work to support the country began in 2016 with Kyrgyzstan joining the Partnership for Action Green Economy (PAGE) - a joint program consisting of five UN agencies. In 2017 it undertook a green economy stocktaking analysis.
- In 2019 the government approved a program on green economy action. Parliament later ratified the Paris agreement on Climate Change, which opened up the opportunity for more work on green economy and on climate
- The president of Kyrgyzstan committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 participation in the 2021 climate CoP. That was an enabler, because:
 - It set the policy direction for the country by which all government institutions and other supportive functions could align.
 - It enabled us to establish an MRV system of gas greenhouse gas emissions.
- In 2021, even though Kyrgyzstan was undertaking massive government restructuring, the UNCT was able to support a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach on adopting enhanced NDCs.



- This was done with the support of the UNDP climate programme (which provided resources to hire the required expertise for quality assurance). Several other UN agencies also played a crucial role in supporting the planning of the NDCs at sector level.
- It was also the year that this could influence the new national midterm development planning document (see figure below).

UN support to Green transition in Kyrgyzstan (2016-2022)



- In 2022:
 - Partnership with IRENA to conduct a Renewable Energy Readiness Assessment
 - Preparation of a long-term strategy (LTS) has recently begun
 - Analysis of tax exemptions areas and SDGs
 - In the pipeline: green taxonomy.
- Additionally, the UNCT is stimulating the demand for green energy by working with young people, science and academia - generating knowledge products and information material - mobilizing young people to speak up.
- In promoting the green transition, it's very important to work both with the supply and demand.

Challenges

- The **biggest challenge is the fossil fuel entrenchment** in the existing systems.
- The country's low level of industrialization: green transition may be easier in countries with stronger industry since they already have the systems and mainly need replacement



- Low awareness of climate issues and environmental hazards
- Low capacity in all sectors because of the late onset in the climate scene. Countries that have been involved in this agenda for a couple of decades have far more expertise. That translates not just to the government and to business, but also to UN staff in the country.
- Last but not least - we've been navigating some struggles of over mandates and resources, but the enthusiasm among the agencies is very contagious and that puts us on a good track.

Georgia

Ms. Natalia Davlianidze, FAO Georgia

- All the Results Groups under the Cooperation Framework in Georgia are working very effectively - coordinating and cooperating in all areas that they cover.
- Regarding the Results Group concerned with the green transition, the UNCT coordinates and works in three main areas of support:
 - environmental governance and institutional capacity building
 - ensuring climate sensitive risk-resilient development
 - streamlining Innovative and climate-friendly technologies into the economy
- Georgia has updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), is party to the Paris Agreement, and has a climate change strategy for 2030. The UNCT is actively and effectively engaged through different policy supports in the implementation of Georgia's climate strategy.
- Georgia is actively participating in the CoP format (most recently in CoP 27), and Food Systems Summit and Food Systems Summit follow-up activities in the country. The UNCT supports Georgia in its engagement in international fora in multilateral formats.
- The UNCT also provides technical assistance to Georgia to ensure smooth green transition in the country - aligned with its NDCs and climate strategy (different agencies through their expertise). Specific examples of expertise include:
 - Environment and health nexus
 - Food systems and Climate-smart Agriculture
 - Environment and land restoration
- The UNCT provides climate (in general) and green transition awareness raising - with different public groups such as youth, women, and marginalized groups. Wherever the UNCT has access, it provides knowledge and expertise and raises public awareness on the issues that are important for ensuring green transition **through joint coordination** and government support.
- There is still space for more cooperation and to foster more joint programming for green transition - there are existing frameworks that we could build on (e.g., 'One Health', Food systems transformation, climate adaptation and mitigation).



Challenges and solutions

- There are multiple overlapping crises:
 - From FAO's perspective - food security
 - The current crisis caused by the war in Ukraine on top of the already existing crises
 - Shrinking government fiscal space due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing the necessary funding for climate investment
- Moving forward, it will be critical for the UNCT to ensure that, amidst these crises, governments are not sidelined from investing into green transition. The UNCT crisis response needs to ensure planning for mainstreaming sustainable, climate resilient approaches.

Tajikistan

Mr. Owais Parray, Economist, RCO Tajikistan

- The idea of green transition is finally taking hold – it's being anchored – it's moving from rhetoric to policy space. This change should have happened several years ago. However, the threats of planetary crisis - didn't spur desired action ... because **policy makers often don't necessarily think long term**.
- Now there is an **economic imperative for green transition** - There is evidence that it makes sense economically, and countries that don't make that transition will be left behind - because of technological change, change in economic structure etc.
- Tajikistan is slightly behind the curve when it comes to green transition. Its level of industrialization explains why it is late to some extent (Tajikistan's green transition is not necessarily going to be a game changer for global emissions - because it contributes very little). But as a country which is probably the most vulnerable to climate change, it benefits from taking climate action.
- Tajikistan has a lot to offer in terms of rich water resources (it has 60% of the water reserves in Central Asia), and the potential to move towards renewables that can be exported to neighboring countries. It's already working in that direction.
- The UNCT has been supporting Tajikistan in the NDCs - revising them, raising the ambition level; the adaptation plans, and more recently, work on budgeting and financing related to climate change.

Challenges and solutions

- Achieving policy coherence is a challenge. There are lots of policies and strategies in place (e.g., the national development strategy, the adaptation plan, NDCs, NDC action plans) and now a green economy strategy. Too many overlapping policies can create confusion. Mainstreaming is the solution (but not just 'word-smithing') - improving green credentials for the policies, and investments - both public and private are necessary.



- Another challenge is finding a more sustainable development path. Countries like Tajikistan can learn from other mistakes. For example, look at how East and Southeast Asia achieved rapid economic transformation, and how they can take a slightly different path which has **long-term economic benefits**. This is the language that policy makers understand – rather than talking about existential threats.

Second round of Questions & Answers

Focus on 2023-2030:

- How can we at the UNCT be more strategic, given what we have been doing, what we have been learning over the last five, seven, eight years - given the situation where we are now, in terms of the current context?
- Are we being strategic enough at the UNCT level? Can we be more strategic? If so, how?

Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Louise Chamberlain, UNDP Kyrgyzstan

- The Green transition requires a system-wide impact and system-wide engagement, so first of all, it's important for UNCTs to engage broadly and bring to bear the combination of their mandates.
- Expertise is required across multiple sectors, and the entry points are across multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral processes such as the SDGs, national action plans, national adaptation plans, etc.
- Regarding Finance, UNCTs need to help the government have a more robust investment framework and pipeline of investable projects. The International Financial Institutions (IFIs) need to know what funding is needed.
- Another area is also technical coordination with other entities and partnering with IFIs, which is something that several agencies can do.
- Last but not least, robust data and quality assurance data is something that we need to work in respective sectors (E.g., FAO keeping track of carbon sinks).

Georgia

Ms. Nestan Khuntsaria, RCO Georgia

- The UNCT should be united to promote private sector engagement and encourage partnerships.
- Joint programming is a good solution to address the crises and challenges. Even during the planning of individual agency projects, it's very important that other UN agencies stay informed and their technical capacities, experiences are taken into account. To address coordination



challenges, all agencies should have the same level of information to avoid duplicating or overlapping actions.

- Entry points to improve at the country level: To make the UNCT's work attractive for the private sector to invest in and join, the UNCT should organize information exchange and awareness raising events (e.g., visits to successful project sites, media tours); promoting and facilitating information sharing and the replication of successful examples.
- There needs to be a greater focus on municipal level capacity building activities - so those who work on site, or in the field are equipped with knowledge of successful practices and stay informed.

Tajikistan

Mr. Owais Parray, Economist, RCO Tajikistan

- UNCTs are already working at the strategic level, but perhaps we need to do more work upstream both at the political and technical levels.
- Shifts in the mindset – the UN has positioned itself differently compared to the past, It has a new cooperation framework. It has tried to narrow the gap between the economic dimensions of development and natural resource management.
- Economists (unfortunately at times) have dominated policy making. Making a stronger economic case does mean getting everyone engaged and listening. But it is also important to make the case for protecting natural resources not only for economic value but also for its existential and social value.
- Developing countries should understand that future industrialization is going to look quite different. While the world is collectively facing mega trends (i.e., climate change, urbanization, etc.), the transition that other countries made to becoming industrialized was switching from agriculture to manufacturing, etc. This may not happen in countries like Tajikistan. This represents opportunities, and that's where green transition/transformation is going to help. E.g., There will likely be increased consumption of services compared to tangible goods manufacturing. Digitalization is also a major shift which represents a huge opportunity for jobs in green industries, including services. This could be a greater area of focus for Tajikistan.
- Financing is also very important. Tajikistan has an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and that's where the UNCT can move the needle. It can help the government understand how financing is put behind all these strategies and policies – (public financing, development IFIs, and the private sector) and how to attract financing.

Respondent: Mr. Ravshan Yunusof, UNDP Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's Green Growth Strategic Framework

Question by the moderator: Can you briefly introduce the Green Growth Strategic Framework – what are its main strategic lines?



Mr. Yunusof:

- The Green Growth Strategic Framework is something we developed together with several development partners in the country, including the World Bank and the French development agency at the request of the government. It mostly relates to the operationalization of the government's green transition strategy - which was adopted in 2019.
- Context: the implementation of the government's green transition strategy was delayed due to Covid-19. With the UNCT's assistance the government began as a means to support recovery from the pandemic in a more sustainable and green way.
- The Green Growth Strategic Framework focuses on **three main goals**:
 1. Significantly increase the energy efficiency in the economy (because energy is the sector that most contributes to CO2 emission - with over 75 %)
 2. Increase participation of the population and local communities
 3. Create an enabling environment for a green transition
- Within these goals, **six main pillars** were identified that cover all different sectors of economy:
 1. Sustainable and efficient natural resource management (here we will focus mainly on land and water management)
 2. strengthening resilience to natural disasters and climate change (recent dust storms the capital city of Tashkent made this very clear)
 3. Green and low carbon development industry and economy
 4. Innovative and effective green investments
 5. Sustainable and inclusive urbanization
 6. *Last but not least*: Support for people who are mostly impacted by the transition. This in line with the ILO principles of '**Just Transition**'.

Besides these main six pillars, there are **three cross-sectoral themes**:

- Capacity building and human capital development.
- The enabling policy environment
- Green finance
- Financing is a very important for all those sectors.
- The whole process has been developed by applying a systems thinking approach.
- The Green Growth Strategic Framework is now with the cabinet waiting for approval.

Questions by the moderator: How was this originated? Whose idea was to develop a Green Growth Strategic Framework? Who are the government partners? How are other partners being engaged, and what is the role of the UNCT in supporting the development of this Framework?

Mr. Yunusof:

- After the adoption of this **green transition strategy** by the government in 2019, the Covid-19 Pandemic hit, and this delayed the implementation of the strategy.



- After the pandemic, in 2021, the UNCT team including UNDP, UNECE together with the European Union (EU) organized the initiative **Green Forum of Uzbekistan**:
 - The main idea was to convene all the partners to initiate the dialogue on how to best transition to the green economy as a way of 'building forward better' - to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The three main National Partners include:
 - Minister of Economic Development and Power Production
 - The Center of Hydrometeorological Services under the Ministry of Emergency Situations (Uzhydromet)
 - the State Committee of Ecology and Environmental Protection
 - The overall purpose of this event was to build dialogue in order to formulate the recommendations and actions for supporting the government with green transition.
 - UNDP prepared a policy brief on green recovery and transition to green economy that it presented during the event.
 - After the event, a **statement of intent** was developed, clearly indicating the steps that could be taken to support the government. The development of a road map was suggested, but after consultations with the government, it was agreed instead to develop the **Green Growth Strategic Framework** - including an action plan - with the main purpose of operationalizing the government's green transition strategy.
- The document development process began in April 2021 (almost immediately after the Green Forum of Uzbekistan was held). UNDP, the World Bank and AFD were the main partners leading the development process, but subsequently other IFIs (ADB, BRB, ISDB, and other US Agencies) were very active with their inputs. UNDP outsourced three international consultants and five National consultants. The role of UNDP was like a *pen holder* - developing the structure and incorporating all the inputs from other partners and development agencies in the region.
- The initial results were presented during the 2021 climate CoP 26 in Glasgow - to initiate the discussions with other partners as well.
- The finalized document was presented during a series of consultations within the framework of Stockholm 50, which took place in Uzbekistan one year later - in May (2022). There, we presented **the Framework**, collected feedback (both written in oral) from international and local national partners, and incorporated all the comments into the document.
- Another Workshop was arranged by the Ministry of economy. There the final document was circulated among all the national Ministries and agencies.
- Currently the document is with the cabinet of ministers awaiting signature. It will be approved by the presidential degree (Hopefully it will be signed and adopted by the end of this week.)



Moderator Roberto Hurtado: Summary remarks,

- The guidance note mentions examples from the transnational, regional and super- regional levels - Uzbekistan has presented an example of a strategic framework at the country level.
- The experience from Uzbekistan reflects a point made by the UNDP Kyrgyzstan representative, that *this needs to be system-wide engagement - combining expertise and mandates*. Part of that is the joint programming that the representative from FAO Georgia mentioned.
- The challenge in the development of a Green Growth Strategic Framework is to ensure that it's not just another strategy, and that it doesn't produce confusion; but that it drives national development across the board (policy coherence)- as mentioned by the representative from Tajikistan.
- One point that came up very strongly on the issue of finance - made both in the expert presentation by OECD representative Krzysztof Michalak, and in the presentations by all panellists: the strategic role of the UNCT is not about *obtaining finance* (e.g. from IFIs, private investors, and others - even the Ministry of Finance itself in spending plans); it's about – “*What do we need the finance for?*” – “*How do we make sure that the country is ready to articulate its demands?* We will ensure this point is strengthened as we revise the guidance note.

Closing Remarks

Facilitator Darren Swanson highlighted that the webinar participants had provided information and posted several links on the webinar's virtual sharing board. For example, in Montenegro a Circular Economy Road map developed and adopted and a strategy is under development (currently in the process of public consultations). In the context of Serbia, its [Green Bond Framework](#) was highlighted.

In closing both the webinar and the IBC Green Transitions Training Programme, the UNECE's Deputy Executive Secretary, **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, emphasized the UN's responsibility to assist countries in shifting gears towards more circular and sustainable policies, and that UN country teams are uniquely placed to support such transitions. He encouraged participants to use the guidance materials and the information from today's discussion and circulate it further among colleagues. The IBC team is also available to support and provide further information as needed.

Furthermore, Mr. Mariyasin touched on the following points:

- **Green transition is about future proofing policies and government expenditures** – the ability to compete; it's about understanding the deep-seated tensions between the environment and the economy and the limits to a certain business model that might have been prevailing in the countries of the region; it's about managing risk.
 - We're still not seeing enough transformative action in the program countries in our region. Why is the circular economy or a Greener Energy Mix still very much off the radar



of the top level decision makers? Why do they still tend to send a Ministry of environment to these discussions where in fact you need to send the Minister of Finance to these discussions, or a minister of economy for that matter?

- I think it's precisely because we might have been, as the UN, too normative about it and often speaking about it from the point of view of an ideal scenario. Can we learn to talk about it from a point of view of a scenario that takes into account the risk profile of a country and pitches the green transition from the competitiveness point of view? That is a major Challenge.
- For example, in UNECE we pay particular attention to the linkages between greening and trade or sustainable trade. The starting point is: where do we want to be five years from now in terms of a trade regime? What do we need to change?
- **There is a clear link between the UN's work and the world of Finance.**
 - We at the UN are at different degrees of trying to get engaged with the world of Finance - trying to shape the new generation of investable projects - trying to shape portfolios of the IFIs.
 - In some cases, trying to shape government's policies on integrated financing - be it public or private - so that ultimately Finance helps countries achieve SDGs rather than the opposite, UN system-wide we still need to build up capabilities on this and we need to have a one-on-one on fight on International Development Finance 101, on Public Finance and 101, on private Finance for every single UN staff member joining or planning to stay for more than a year.
 - That would be my personal view that system-wide we would do really well because when we talk to a bank about the project, we mean completely different things when we talk about funding and financing. We need to understand what the difference is.
 - If we're serious about political change, we need to be able to come from a point of view when a Social Affairs officer an Environmental Officer a project a leader on renewable energy or Energy Efficiency knows exactly how to read a budget line of a national budget and exactly how to how to read a statement and a balance sheet of an investment project
 - Honestly, we do not yet have that capability system-wide. I'm saying this very openly - assuming this is an internal session, I know that the OECD and other partners are with us, but I'm saying this also on purpose in their presence because we would love to work together on these things.
 - I would like to build up this capability of the UN because I fundamentally believe that we as development professionals or people working more on the normative side of the UN need to have that link.
 - It's not enough to do a good pilot, it's not enough to prepare a good policy. We need to be able to plug in to scaling up strategies on green transition. Scaling up happens with big money - with national budgets, Investments.



- **We have a lot to learn from each other and we have a lot that we can do together as a UN family.**
 - The logos barely fit on the slide! We are many different structures - we are all proud of our mandates, but ultimately, our clients - the governments and the people - they just want the result from us. -So, to the extent that we can think of specific ideas for collaboration within IBC that deliver inputs for the countries.
 - From our side, UNECE is one of the co-chairs of this particular IBC. We stand ready to be cooperating with all of you, and if you would like us to do some deep dives in a country or a sub-region (Green transition included) we would be very happy to do this with partners. As a co-chair of IBC we're happy to support, but we need to have this demand calculated, and we also will need to fundraise so that we can respond to the real needs with good quality.
- **We had a very good mix of UN agencies, UN country members, and RCOs participating in this final webinar of the IBC Green Transitions Training Programme.**
 - RCs: we need to overcome all the differences in a country level context and be able to form smart alliances between the UN agencies within the UNCT. The RCs and the RCOs have to play an important catalytic and policy coherence role, similar to what we advocate with the government.
 - Because we come to the government and advocate. Today this came through very clearly, including in Françoise' remarks. The governments operate in silos. For them, a green transition is maybe a useful conceptual thing, but not something they can touch on something they can really reflect on their structures. So they operate the silos - but so do we. Smarter alliances within the UN would go a long way in helping create the kind of project and capacity building infrastructure that we need to help the government move the needle on this.
 - So - this is a call for all of us to work together beyond the big words- Beyond the UN reform slogans. Truly - pick an issue - figure it out, and fundraise together for it. Competition for donor money is still there and we will need to acknowledge it and be working around it in a way that's realistic for the UN country teams.

Mr. Mariyasin concluded by thanking the IBC team for the hard work, and all the partners that have contributed - especially the OECD and also our team at UNECE (Especially Nick and Sarah for leading this). We're looking forward to your feedback we're looking forward to making more of these. We hope that jointly we advance this agenda forward. Thank you.



Annex 1: Participant List

NO	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE in the ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY office
1	Agim	Pepkolaj	Fao	Project manager	Albania
2	Akemi	Lamarche-Vadel	UNESCO Regional Bureau	Intern	Italy
3	Aleksandra	Kikovic	UNDP	Programme Manager	Montenegro
4	Ani	Karapetyan	UNHCR	Senior Field Assistant	Armenia
5	Anita	Kodzoman	UNDP	Programme Officer, Head of Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction	Republic of North Macedonia
6	Artak	Ordyan	WFP	Partnership officer	Armenia
7	Azamat	Usubaliev	UNDP	Kyrgyzstan	
8	Baktygul	Ysabekova	UNDP	Project coordinator	Kyrgyzstan
9	Batyr	Khadzhiev	UNECE	Economic Affairs Officer	Switzerland
10	Borko	Vulikic	UNDP	project manager	Montenegro
11	Christine	Kitzler	UNECE	Environmental Affairs Officer	Switzerland
12	Danijela	Sundic	UNIDO	National Coordinator	Montenegro
13	Darren	Swanson	IISD	Senior Associate	Canada
14	Dmitry	Mariyasin	UNECE	Deputy Executive Secretary	Switzerland
15	Ela	Ionescu	UN Women	Partnership Specialist and Climate focal point	Turkey
16	Eleanor	Gibson	UNOPS		Austria
17	Fioralba	Shkodra	UN	Head of RCO	Serbia
18	Francesca	BAMPA	UNESCO Regional Bureau, Europe	Project officer Science Unit	Italy
19	Francesco	Vettore	UNESCO	intern	Italy
20	Francoise	Jacob	RCS DCO	UN Resident Coordinator	Serbia
21	Garik	Khachikyan	UNDP	Policy Advisor	Armenia
22	Gordana	Popovikj Friedman	UNDP	Project Manager	North Macedonia
23	Gurel	Gurkan	UNOPS	Head of Programme	Austria
24	Hanna	Harbachova	UNDP	Programme Assistant, Energy Environment and Climate Change Unit	Republic of Belarus
25	Hovhannes	Ghazaryan	UNDP	CER Portfolio Lead	Armenia
26	Isroiljon	Khasanov	UNDP	Programme Analyst on Energy	Uzbekistan
27	Jing	Fang	UNESCO		
28	Jonathan	Baker	UNESCO	Head, Science Unit	Italy



NO	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE in the ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY office
29	Kanykey	Orozbaeva	UN RCO	DMO	Kyrgyzstan
30	Katrin	Lichtenberg	UNOPS	Head of Portfolio Water Environment and Climate	Austria
31	Kris	Douçot	UNECE	Environmental Affairs Officer	Switzerland
32	Krzysztof	Michalak	OECD Environment Directorate	Acting Head, Green Growth and Global Relations Division	France
33	Leslie	Paas	IISD	Associate	Canada
34	Lira	Zholdubaeva	UNDP	Climate Change Analyst	Kyrgyzstan
35	Lorenza	Jachia	United Nations	Senior Economist	Serbia
36	Louise	Chamberlain	UNDP		Kyrgyzstan
37	Maria	Osbeck	UNICEF	Senior Programme Specialist Environment and Climate Change	Turkiye
38	Matthew	Billot	UNEP	Senior coordination officer	Switzerland
39	Mirzomurod	Samiev	FAO	M&E Specialist	Tajikistan
40	Naira	Harutyunyan	FAO	M&E	Armenia
41	Natalia	Davlianidze	FAO	Programme Specialist	Georgia
42	Nazgul	Kulova	UNDP	Consultant	Kyrgyzstan
43	Nestan	Khuntsaria	RCO		Georgia
44	Nicholas	Bonvoisin	UNECE	Chief, Operational Activities & Review Section, Environment Division	Switzerland
45	Nino	Dzotsenidze	UNICEF	Environmental Health Officer	Georgia
46	Nora	Sahatciu	Regional DCO ECA	Cooperation Framework Officer	Turkiye
47	Nune	Hovhannisyan	ILO	National Coordinator	Armenia
48	Nuria	Choibaeva	UN RCO - Kyrgyzstan	Development Coordination Officer, Economist	Kyrgyzstan
49	Oleg	Dzioubinski	UNECE	Regional Adviser on Energy	Switzerland
50	Oleg	Guchgeldiyev	FAO		Tajikistan
51	Owais	Parray	UNRCO	Economist	Tajikistan
52	Parviz	Boboev	UN RCO	Coordination and Development Analyst	Tajikistan
53	Plamen	Skrobanski	UNDSS	Security Adviser	Turkmenistan
54	Rano	BAYKHANOVA	UNDP	Programme Analyst on Climate Change	Uzbekistan
55	Ravshan	Yunusov	UNDP Uzbekistan	Programme Officer	Uzbekistan



NO	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE in the ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY office
56	Roberto	Martin Hurtado	.	Consultant	.
57	Sanja	Bojanic	UNDP	Deputy Resident Representative	North Macedonia
58	Sarangoo	Radnaaragchaa	UNECE	Regional Adviser	Switzerland
59	Sari	Lappi	WMO	Coordinator	Croatia
60	Soumyadeep	Banerjee	IOM	Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change Specialist	Austria
61	Tatjana	Bundaleska	UNHCR	Protection Associate	North Macedonia
62	Vasyl	Tolkachov	UNOPS	Partnerships Advisor	Georgia
63	Victoria	Novikova	UNDP	Project manager	Belarus
64	Yeliz	Oymen	UNDP	Programme Associate	Turkiye
65	Yvonne	Rademacher	UNOPS	Project Manager	Serbia



Annex 2: Webinar Agenda and Evaluation Results

Timing	Agenda item
0-10 min	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction to Green Transitions (<i>IBC representative</i>) • Webinar Overview and Warm-up Polling (<i>Darren Swanson, IISD</i>)
10-50 min	<p>Part I: Presentations on Enabling Policies and Strategic Frameworks</p> <p>Making the green transition happen – towards a strategic approach (<i>Roberto Martin Hurtado, UNECE consultant</i>) [20 min]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What elements from previous webinars have a strategic importance for the green transition? • What existing regional strategic frameworks can inform country-level action? • How do economy-wide policies, national planning processes, and sectoral policy frameworks affect the green transition? • What are some strategic entry points for UNCTs to promote and support the green transition? <p>The green transition in practice – a regional overview (<i>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</i>) [10 min]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What progress have countries in Europe and Central Asia made in the green transition? • Are any countries progressing at a fast enough pace? • How can UNCTs support the acceleration of the green transition in those countries? <p>Q&A [10 min]</p>
50-65 min	<p>Part II. Keynote Interview: Facilitating the green transition – a country representative perspective (<i>Ms. Françoise Jacob, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia</i>) [10 min]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being both ambitious and realistic, how do you see the role of the UNCT in supporting the green transition? What opportunities for UN support have you perceived in “your country”? • How do you see the role of a UN Resident Coordinator in promoting the green transition? What challenges are you facing in your dialogue with the government to promote the green transition? • What support will you need from your UNCT or from regional platforms to fulfil that role? <p>Q&A [5 min]</p>



<p>65-110 min</p>	<p>Part III: Roundtable Session: Sharing experiences, imagining the future (<i>Moderator: Roberto Martin Hurtado, UNECE consultant</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panellists: Co-Chairs of the Green Economy/Environment/Climate Results Groups ● Confirmed panellists: Ms Louise Chamberlain, UNDP Kyrgyzstan; Ms Natalia Davlianidze, FAO Georgia; Ms Nestan Khuntsaria, RCO Georgia; Mr Owais Parray, RCO Tajikistan, ● Focus Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Round 1. Focus on 2016-2022 [15 min] How has “your results group” supported the green transition in “your country”? What challenges have you encountered? What lessons have you learned? ○ Round 2. Focus on 2023-2030 [15 min] What can be a more strategic role of the UNCT in supporting the green transition in “your country”? Which “entry points” could the UNCT target? How does the capacity of the UNCT need to evolve to be able to fulfil that role? ○ Respondent: Mr Ravshan Yunusov, UNDP Uzbekistan <p>Q&A and General Discussion [15 min, moderated by Darren Swanson, IISD]</p>
<p>110-120 min</p>	<p>Next steps and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Webinar evaluation form (<i>Darren Swanson, IISD</i>) ● Closing remarks and next steps: (<i>Mr Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE</i>)

Training evaluation results

In concluding the event, an evaluation form was circulated with a response rate of 6.2% (4 responses). All respondents reported they liked the format, duration, and interactive style of the training. Three of the four respondents felt the training fully met their expectations, while the remaining respondent felt their expectations were ‘partially met’. Everyone felt the content was a useful introduction to enabling policies and strategic frameworks for green transitions.

For the question “Did this webinar provided useful strategic and programmatic guidance on how to enable policies and strategic frameworks for a green transition in your country?”, 100% agreed that it did. Three of the respondents indicated they would use the guidance in practice, while the remaining person thought they might use it.

In written feedback during the webinar, a respondent commented, “Thank you for the opportunity to engage with colleagues. We would welcome more of such IBC events!”